



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Division of Workers' Compensation - Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MS-48)

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name

Terry Beal, M.D.

Respondent Name

Texas Mutual Insurance Company

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-16-1934-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 54

MFDR Date Received

March 8, 2016

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "Please note from the attached proof of First Submission to the carrier that the carrier did receive the claim timely and in compliance with **Rule 133.20 (b) ...**"

Amount in Dispute: \$650.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The designated doctor listed on the DWC69 and the narrative report is Dr. Terry Beal. However, the billing provider was Dr. Ali Bajwa, M.D., in Box 31 of the bill... Texas Mutual declined to issue payment as the documentation did not support the billing.

Then Texas Mutual received a 'corrected' claim on 1/27/16. This bill listed Dr. Terry Bill, M.D., in Box 31 of the bill... Because this was a new bill past 95 days from the date of service, Texas Mutual denied payment."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Company

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
June 19, 2015	Designated Doctor Examination	\$650.00	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and applicable rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20 sets out medical bill submission procedures for health care providers.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4 establishes rules for non-Commission communications.
4. Texas Labor Code §408.027 sets out provisions related to payment of health care providers.

5. Texas Labor Code §408.0272 provides for certain exceptions to untimely submission of a medical claim.
6. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
 - CAC-29 – The time limit for filing has expired.
 - 731 – Per 133.20(b) provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the service.

Issues

1. What is the timely filing deadline applicable to the medical bills for the services in dispute?
2. Did the requestor forfeit the right to reimbursement for the services in dispute?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier denied the disputed services with claim adjustment reason codes: 29 – “THE TIME LIMIT FOR FILING HAS EXPIRED.”; and 731 – “PER 133.20 PROVIDER SHALL NOT SUBMIT A MEDICAL BILL LATER THAN THE 95TH DAY AFTER THE DATE THE SERVICE, FOR SERVICES ON OR AFTER 9/1/05.”

28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20(e) requires that a medical bill be submitted “in the name of the licensed health care provider that provided the health care or that provided direct supervision of an unlicensed individual who provided the health care.” 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20(b) states that, except as provided in Texas Labor Code §408.0272, “a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided.”

Texas Labor Code §408.0272(b) provides that:

Notwithstanding Section 408.027, a health care provider who fails to timely submit a claim for payment to the insurance carrier under Section 408.027(a) does not forfeit the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment solely for failure to submit a timely claim if:

- (1) the provider submits proof satisfactory to the commissioner that the provider, within the period prescribed by Section 408.027(a), erroneously filed for reimbursement with:
 - (A) an insurer that issues a policy of group accident and health insurance under which the injured employee is a covered insured;
 - (B) a health maintenance organization that issues an evidence of coverage under which the injured employee is a covered enrollee; or
 - (C) a workers' compensation insurance carrier other than the insurance carrier liable for the payment of benefits under this title; or
- (2) the commissioner determines that the failure resulted from a catastrophic event that substantially interfered with the normal business operations of the provider.

No documentation was found to support that any of the exceptions described in Texas Labor Code §408.0272 apply to the services in this dispute. For that reason, the health care provider was required to submit the medical bill that complies with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20(e), not later than 95 days after the date the disputed services were provided.

2. Texas Labor Code §408.027(a) states that “Failure by the health care provider to timely submit a claim for payment constitutes a forfeiture of the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment.” 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4(h) states that:

Unless the great weight of evidence indicates otherwise, written communications shall be deemed to have been sent on:

- (1) the date received, if sent by fax, personal delivery or electronic transmission or,
- (2) the date postmarked if sent by mail via United States Postal Service regular mail, or, if the postmark date is unavailable, the later of the signature date on the written communication or the date it was received minus five days. If the date received minus five days is a Sunday or legal holiday, the date deemed sent shall be the next previous day which is not a Sunday or legal holiday.

Review of the submitted information finds no documentation to support that a medical bill for the services in question was submitted within 95 days from the date the services were provided. Consequently, the

requestor has forfeited the right to reimbursement due to untimely submission of the medical bill, pursuant to Texas Labor Code §408.027(a).

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 additional reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

_____	Laurie Garnes	_____
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, 37 *Texas Register* 3833, applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MFDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.